



Gana-A'Yoo, Limited



Forever
STAMP

In May, the United States Postal Service and the National Park Service unveiled and began selling a stamp that features our very own backyard. The Wild and Scenic River forever stamp series features the Koyukuk River among a dozen Wild and Scenic Rivers; these are rivers that are deemed outstandingly remarkable for values including fish and wildlife, geology, recreation, and cultural or historical significance.

FOUNDATION
BOARD
MEMBERS

If you are interested in serving on the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation Board of Directors, you can submit your resume and a letter of intent to Crystal Sommer via fax at 907.569.9699 or email to csommer@ganaayoo.com before the deadline of July 19, 2019. Current board members include Sharon Hildebrand (2019), Janelle Huntington (2020) and Leann Sommer (2021). Board members must be 18 years of age or older to qualify. Please note that under federal laws governing private foundations, family members of Gana-A'Yoo Foundation board members are not eligible to receive a Foundation scholarship during their term on the board. Current scholarship recipients are also not eligible to serve on the board.



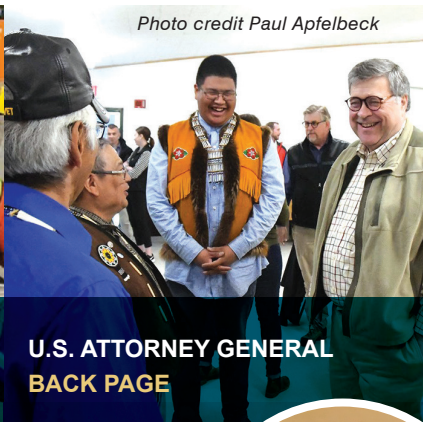
“OUR VOICE”
Denadolale’



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Photo credit Paul Apfelbeck

CEO’S *Message*

Dear Shareholders,

Happy summer to you! It is hard to believe I have had the privilege and honor to serve as your CEO for a year. Time flies when you are having fun. I enjoy each day I work for our people. I am Dena Sommer-Pedebone; my grandparents are Dorothy Sommer and the late Fred Sommer Sr. of Nulato. My maternal grandma, Audrey Steel O’Leary’s parents were some of the original founders of the city of Eagle, Alaska.

My parents are Dene Sommer and Sonny Sommer and Diane Evans Sommer of Fairbanks. At our annual meeting in Kaltag, Al (Al Boy) Nickoli asked me which of Dorothy and Fred’s kids’ daughter I am. When I said, “Sonny,” Al immediately said, “I knew it! You remind me of him.” My husband and I live in Anchorage and have two daughters, Austyn and Sunny. As I learn about our villages and our corporation’s history, I enjoy sharing that knowledge with my daughters. Since they were little girls, I’ve told them stories of my time in Nulato. I believe you must know where you come from in order to know where you are going, and I encourage them and other young people to do the same. One project we are working on at Gana-A’Yoo is open enrollment to descendants born after 1971; you will hear more about this in the coming months.

As I reflect on the last year of change and continued growth for Gana-A’Yoo, the highlights are when I traveled to meet with shareholders and tribal members, and the shareholder events we host in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Recently I had the opportunity to visit Galena, Nulato and Kaltag. I look forward to visiting Koyukuk soon.

2018 was a great year for the corporation, and 2019 is shaping up to be even better. In 2018 we were profitable without natural resource revenue (7i). As a profitable corporation we are helping to ensure the long-term economic stability of our communities. This month our Board of Directors and senior management team held a strategic planning session that focused on “sustainable and profitable growth.” Board Secretary, William Dayton, summed it up perfectly when he shared a story of his mother harvesting birch bark in the spring/early summer to make baskets so she would be prepared for berry picking. “She was strategically planning for berry picking,” he explained.

I wish everyone the best in our summer harvesting activities and events. Be safe. I’d like to express my appreciation to Betty Huntington, former CEO, for her knowledge, patience and confidence while transitioning the role of CEO. Thank you to former board members Ida Hildebrand, Ragine Pilot and Michael Stickman; your service and historical background are truly an asset. Also, thank you to all current and former committee members. There are so many important pieces to our corporation: Lands and Resources, Shareholder Development, Investment, and Shareholder Relations. Everyone involved in these areas continues to demonstrate their commitment to ongoing success.

Lastly, keep an eye out for information on upcoming shareholder information meetings in each community. I look forward to seeing you.

Dena Sommer-Pedebone, CEO



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2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Once a year Gana-A'Yoo gathers in one of our four villages for the annual shareholder meeting. The Board of Directors and staff traveled and met in Kaltag on Friday, May 10 at the Kaltag Community Hall. The 2020 annual shareholder meeting will be held in Nulato.

New BOARD MEMBERS

Congratulations to newly elected board members Frederick Huntington Sr., Colleen Stickman and incumbent William Dayton. The board and staff recognize the contributions of outgoing board members Ida Hildebrand and Ragine Pilot for their hard work and dedication. Thank you to the candidates who ran for the board this year and thank you to the lovely community of Kaltag for hosting this year's annual shareholder meeting. And, of course, thank you to the Gana-A'Yoo shareholders for the 61.606 percent quorum, up from last year's quorum by .977 percent. It is because of your votes that the shareholder meeting is possible.



GUEST SPEAKER

Violet Burnham was our guest speaker at this year's annual shareholder meeting; she spoke of the System of Care (SOC) program, a Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) initiative. When the pilot program was created in 2016, it focused specifically on behavioral health services for youth. However, it was quickly realized that our close-knit communities and our culture has a history of coming together to help families in need and that now serves as a baseline for the program. Through culturally appropriate community events, group meetings and activities, the program aims to teach communication, team building, critical thinking, socializing and other coping skills that create awareness and compassion for those experiencing mental health challenges. TCC's Behavioral Health department is a recipient of a grant that carries out the SOC program through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration; the funding is available through September 2020.



Outgoing BOARD MEMBERS

Thank you to former director Ida Hildebrand for her nine years of service on the Gana-A'Yoo Board of Directors. Her journey started when shareholders wrote to Hildebrand and asked that she consider candidacy. During her time as a director, Hildebrand said her proudest accomplishments include updating the policies, procedures and ethics code, training for the board, board evaluations, self-evaluations and having directors identify training needs. Hildebrand is excited about the current make-up of the Board of Directors. "When the board works together, they really get things done, have good discussions and are not afraid to ask questions. The current leadership is really magnificent; I really appreciate them," she said.



"I am satisfied knowing that our company is doing the best they can for our people."
- Ida Hildebrand

Shareholder OF THE YEAR

JOYCE HUNTINGTON

Joyce Huntington of Galena is the daughter of the late Edward and Laura Pitka; her husband was the late Stanley Huntington. She raised her children Heather (Gutierrez), Tyler, Raymond and the late Daniel Huntington in the house she and her late husband built in Galena overlooking Alexander's Lake. Her grandchildren are Danielle, Trevon, Jase, Hayden, Jaiden, Kaysen and Kylah.

At an early age, Huntington's life necessitated her to become fiercely independent; this has been demonstrated not only through her daily life as she raised her young children as a single parent but also in relatively recent years as she took on responsibilities for her ailing mother who suffered from dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Huntington has developed and demonstrated her leadership skills in the community by sitting on the Loudon Tribal Council for more than a decade, serving as an election judge for Gana-A'Yoo, Limited's annual meeting, and volunteering for community events, including cleaning the church and organizing the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation fundraiser walk held in Galena each summer.

Thank you, Ms. Huntington, for your continued devotion to your family, friends and community.



Thank you to former director Ragine Pilot for her 24 years of service on the Gana-A'Yoo Board of Directors. Pilot served during the turn of the century and has been a solid figure on the board, working through changes that saw transitions between chief executive officers to the move of the corporate headquarters from Galena to Fairbanks to Anchorage. When she started in the mid 1990s, Gana-A'Yoo was dabbling its feet in government contracting; today our corporation receives more than 40 percent of our revenue through government contracting and oversees the management of six subsidiaries. Pilot has worked to effectively balance living off the land at her camp on the Koyukuk River while simultaneously directing our village corporation, a task that is no easy feat.



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

The 2019 Foundation general and competitive scholarship deadline was June 15. For those who did not receive the general scholarship, the next deadline is September 30 for the spring scholarship. Short-term and vocational scholarship applications are accepted throughout the year. For more information, visit the Gana-A'Yoo Foundation website at www.ganaayoo.com/foundation.

SHORT-TERM
AND
VOCATIONAL
SCHOLARSHIPS
Apply year-round

WALK FOR CHARITY

The Gana-A'Yoo Foundation was a beneficiary of the 2019 Fairbanks Visitor Industry Walk for Charity on May 10 in the Golden Heart City. The 4K "graze" through downtown was an evening filled with fun, food and philanthropy. We would like to thank participants and contributors: Marie and Marilyn Andon, Harrison and Jeffrey Cramer, Matthew Haynes, Anthony and Sharon Hildebrand, Susan Paskvan, and Albertha, Christopher, Crystal and Larissa Sommer. It is because of your generosity that we can have a successful program and award scholarships to our students.



Photo credit Miriam and Frank Stelges

SUBSIDIARY *Spotlight*

SIX MILE, LLC

Six Mile, LLC, a Gana-A'Yoo subsidiary, held its biennial auction in April to sell surplus items from the United States Antarctic Program's research stations. Heavy machinery, lab equipment, cold weather gear, vehicle parts and household goods were among the items sold. The auction is held at the Naval Base in Port Hueneme, California; bidding took place online over three days. Proceeds of the auction offset the transportation and disposal costs for the waste that is generated in Antarctica and shipped back to the United States. The next auction will take place in April 2021.



KOYUKUK CULTURE AND WELLNESS CAMP

The Tanana Chiefs Conference and Koyukuk tribe will hold a Culture and Wellness Camp on the Koyukuk River, September 1 – 7. The culture camps promote healthy parenting and assist families to attain and maintain self-sufficiency through cultural and wellness activities. For more information, call 907.452.8251 ext. 3288.



ALUMNI *Spotlight*

Nicole (Nikki) Fennimore of Galena is the daughter of Bruce and Carrie Fennimore, the sister of Nate Fennimore, the granddaughter of Jenny and Dave Pelkola, and the granddaughter of Alma and LeRoy Fennimore of Wrangell.



"Put yourself out there. Ask questions. Ask to participate. I have gotten to where I am today because I learned how to ask. Most people want to help you and see you succeed; take advantage of that."

Fennimore is a past recipient of Gana-A'Yoo Foundation's competitive scholarship and graduated in May with her Medical Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine and Public Health. Fennimore specializes in Obstetrics and Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) and was inspired by stories about how her great-grandmother, the late Madeline Solomon, delivered babies in rural Alaska. She said she felt a special connection to her ancestor and feels as though everything was coming full circle and that becoming an Ob/Gyn is in her blood.

Fennimore explained that she got through school by taking each day one at a time. "Even though it may seem daunting and scary at first, over time you slowly become ready for what it is you are expected to do without ever really realizing when the change happened," she said. When asked about a highlight from Fennimore's years of medical school, she shared the following:

One of the highlights of medical school was the first baby that I helped deliver as a first-year student in a "teaching hospital." Typically, when a C-section takes place, the highest-level doctor (attending) supervises the surgery while the resident doctors perform the surgery and the medical student helps hold instruments. As a first-year student I was able to shadow on the labor and delivery unit. This was my first time in an operating room and my role was to stand in the back and not touch anything. Right before the C-section started, an emergency down the hall took place and all the resident doctors exited the room. The attending doctor looked at me and said, "Come over here, you are going to help me." He must have seen the look of horror on my face and followed with, "Don't worry, I could walk a kindergartner through this procedure." That day I got to assist pulling the baby out and was one of the first people to welcome this new life into the world. It was an emotion that was so strong I will never forget it. With every baby I've helped deliver since that time I get the same feeling.

Fennimore is now working on her residency at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, where she will be for the next four years.

DENAKKANAAGA CONFERENCE

The annual Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference was held in Nulato June 4 – 6; the conference is held every year in one of Interior Alaska’s 42 villages. This year’s theme was “Serving Others: A Traditional Native Value Guiding Us: Honoring Poldine Carlo.” The late Carlo, who was raised in Nulato and was a Gana-A’Yoo, Limited shareholder, assisted in founding Denakkanaaga in the early 1980s. Denakkanaaga is a Denaakk’e word that means “Our People Speak.”



Photo credit
Erica Esmailka

U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

United States Attorney General William Barr stopped in the community of Galena on his rural Alaska tour in May. Barr met with Alaska Native leaders from around the state to discuss law enforcement challenges in rural Alaska.

OPPORTUNITIES

Shareholders are welcome to utilize Gana-A’Yoo, Limited’s computers, fax machine or printers at the Anchorage office. For a full list of job opportunities with Gana-A’Yoo, visit www.ganaayoo.com/opportunities/. Gana-A’Yoo, in partnership with ESS Services, has employment opportunities in Antarctica. After applying, please call the corporate office at 907.569.9599.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY

19 Foundation board letter of intent deadline

AUG

10 Gana-A’Yoo board meeting
8:30 a.m., Fairbanks

10 Foundation annual membership meeting
12 p.m., Fairbanks

SEPT

1-7 Koyukuk Culture and Wellness Camp



Gana-A’Yoo, Limited

1001 E Benson Blvd., Suite 201
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

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CONTACT US

Toll-Free | 1.888.656.1606
Anchorage | 907.569.9599
Galena | 907.656.1606
web | ganaayoo.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kimberly Bower | Chair
Melissa McGinty | President
Betty Griffin | Vice-President
William Dayton | Secretary
Shay Huntington McEwen | Treasurer
Sharon Hildebrand | Director
Frederick Huntington Sr. | Director
Thomas Neglaska | Director
Colleen Stickman | Director

EDITOR

Larissa Sommer
newsletter@ganaayoo.com

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family and friends of:

Agnes S. Dayton, 62
Koyukuk Stock

Mary A. Patsy, 85
Nulato Stock

Evelyn M. Solomon, 43
Nulato & Koyukuk Stock

Cindy VanWezel, 43
Galena Stock

WHERE ARE YOU?

Current information for the following shareholders is requested. Please contact the corporate office if you have any information on their whereabouts:

Sterling Ambrose
Nathan J. Angel
Matthew Ballantine
Michael R.C. Baranda
Vienna Boe
Reggie Becker
Rhonda Becker
Brook Bryant
Duane Burnham
Diane Carlo
Walter Carlo
Leanne Dapceovich
Andrew Dayton
Franklin Dayton
Jonathan Dayton
Thomas T. Debo
Burke W. Dentler
Melissa M. Diaz
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Tyler Drake
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Minnie Ekada
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Pamela Esmailka
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Charles Grassco
Lance Gurtler
Tobi Hower
Daphne Jensen
William T. Johnson
Isabelle Kallio
Daniel Kennedy
Robert Kennedy
Rose Kennedy
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Jeremiah Lauesen
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Marvin Mountain
Edith Nicholas
Victor W. Nicholas
Jason Nollner
Alesia Peters
Rudolph Peters
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Katherine Quirk
Donovan C. Reisland
Kayla R. Ridderbush
Karen Sam
Chris R.T. Semaken
Curtis K. Semaken
Jenna C.L. Semaken

Sally Semaken
Brandon Shank
Joseph Shank
Rachel Silas
Bill P. Solomon
Teresa Solomon
Kelly Sommer
Naomi Sommer
Bridget Stanley
Donald AJ Stickman
Alphonse Stockton
Luann Strickland
Raeanne Susook
Sharon Susook
Ammaron L. Twitchell
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Joshua Yaska
Tanya M. Yatlin